



Raymond Chavez

May 2, 1937 - February 26, 2025

Raymond Chavez was born on May 2, 1937 in the town of Belen, New Mexico to loving parents Ralph and Bess Chavez. Ray was the eldest of 5 children, three sisters Rose, Gloria & Cathy, and his brother Ralph Anthony. He grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico with his family until the age of 17, when he enlisted in the Air Force. While stationed in St. John's, Newfoundland a beautiful girl named Betty spilled a hot pot of coffee on a handsome young fella's back. That turned into an "I do" on March 3, 1958. Their love grew into being parents to 5 beautiful daughters, 4 sons-in-law, 1 daughter-in-law, 14 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren. Ray and Betty celebrated just short of 61 years of marriage, adventure, parenting and traveling the world all covered in the deepest love and faith.

On February 26, 2025 Ray went home to heaven to be reunited with Betty and so many of his loved ones. A man that meant so much to us all, a husband, a father, a brother, a son, a grandparent and a friend to many. A man that was truly everyone's favorite person in the world. To many of us he was Grandpa or G-pa, but to you he might have been Dad, Abe, Abie, Abie baby, Ray, Ramon, or Mr. Chavez. Whatever he was to you, I am so grateful we get to honor and celebrate this man's life. As you read these words I want you to take a second to feel his love, because if you knew this man, then you knew his love, generosity, kindness, and care. His legacy of love is written and etched into every one of us, into the fiber of our being, and we simply can't

escape it. He may have taken his last breath on this side of heaven, however his love and the endless ways he chose to show up in every season of our lives will long outlive him. His love will go on in our family traditions, in our conversations, and in our lives. All of who he was, I see in all of who we are. I see his sacrificial love and the ways he showed up in the big and small moments of our lives; it ripples down and through his daughters. I see his love for language and roots through his granddaughter and the ways she joyfully carries that on. I see his passion, care and pure enjoyment for nature trickle down through generations when we gather as a family around a campfire with his ingenious fire starters. I see his joy of fishing through his grandsons and great-grandkids in every single catch. I am reminded of how hard he worked his whole life through the mundane tasks of yard work, because I will always picture him in his hat working in the yard, chopping firewood or working in the yards of his family; it is forever in the forefront of my mind and heart. I see his love of food, cooking and sharing space through his granddaughters. I feel my grandparents' heart, faith and commitment to family every time we all get the gift of sharing time in the same room together. I hear his gift and joy of storytelling in us all. I see, hear and feel so much of who he was in us all. That's what a legacy of love does; It outlasts, it lives on. And I know without a doubt G-pa's legacy will outlast and live on for many many generations to come.

How does one possibly find words to grasp the impact of this man's life? It feels impossible. So for whatever was not said, whatever needs to be said, find space for that in your heart. For you, for all he was to you. Here is to our favorite man in the world, to a life well-lived, so big, so deep and so so full of love. We love you G-pa. Thank you for you.

Ray is preceded in death by his wife of 61 years Betty Chavez, his parents Ralph and Bess Chavez, his sister Cathy Chavez, his daughter Yvonne Chavez, his daughter-in-law Kelly Mysch, his granddaughter Angela Woods,

his grandson Richard Brandich Jr, his grandson Nicholas Steadman, his great grandson Joshua Cranston and his great-granddaughter Aletheia.

Ray is survived by his daughter Sharon and husband Tony Dipoce, his daughter Cindy and husband Richard Brandich, his daughter Arlene and husband Michael Pope, his daughter Liz Chavez, his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service to celebrate and honor his life will be held on April 2, 2025 at St. Benedict's Catholic Church at 11 am. (12130 Falcon Highway Peyton CO, 80831) Internment and Honor Guard ceremony to recognize his 22 years serving in the Air Force and retiring as a Master Sergeant will follow at Pikes Peak National Cemetery at 2pm. (10545 Drennan Road Colorado Springs, CO 80925) We would love for you to be there if you are able to make it.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

St. Benedict's Catholic Church
12130 Falcon Highway
Peyton, CO 80831

Inurnment

APR 2. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Pikes Peak National Cemetery
10545 Drennan Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80925

Tribute Wall

CL

“ 12/4/2025

Abe and I grew up in Albuquerque. During the summers we worked at the Playland Amusement Park, Barber's Super Market at West Central and occasionally as caddies at the Country Club to earn enough money to have teenage fun. After cruising Central on Friday and Saturday nights in my old 37 Dodge or in his dad's Chevrolet, some of our favorite hangouts were the Doghouse (footlong hotdogs), Lionel's Fish and Chips, The LotaBurger, The Center, where teenagers went to dance, and of course, the many drive-In movie theaters around town. We were inseparable in high school, but we knew that we would go our separate ways after graduation because our future was already decided for us. Join the Navy or Air Force or be drafted into the Army.

Abe graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1954 and joined the Air Force soon after. I followed him into the service by joining the Navy in 1955. We wrote letters for the first few years we were apart. I saw Abe again in about 1960 when Wilma, our two toddlers, Lenni and Terri, and I, came through Albuquerque on our way from Turkey to the Philippines. He was stationed in Albuquerque at a radar site on the West Mesa. We met his wife, Betty, and his children then. Some 30 years later, I saw Abe and Betty again in about 1993 or 1994 when I had some Navy business at the Buckley Air Force Base in Denver. He was retired from the AF then and, if memory serves me, working as a civil servant at the base there.

Although we did not see each other much during the last 70 years, Abe was always in my thoughts, and his death leaves a hole in my heart that won't close until I see him again. His years in the Air Force were honorable and distinguished and he retired as a Senior Master Sergeant. I'm so happy that the family has laid him to rest amongst our nation's heroes at the Pike's Peak National Cemetery. Abe, dear brother, I wish you blue skies and long runways forever.

Clyde C. Lopez

CAPT, USN, RET

Clyde C Lopez - December 04, 2025 at 06:28 PM

PG

“ Pat Del Greco purchased the Simply Elegant Spathephyllum for the family of Raymond Chavez.



Pat Del Greco - March 29, 2025 at 01:16 PM

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“ Pat Del Greco planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raymond Chavez.

Pat Del Greco - March 29, 2025 at 01:16 PM

DP

“ What an amazing man! We will cherish the many wonderful memories with you.

Love,
Denise, Eli, Brittany and Blaine

Denise D Phillips - March 20, 2025 at 06:24 PM